Border talks with China

681. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian delegation led by National Security Adviser has recently, visited China and held discussions to maintain peace and tranquility along the border to help a speedy resolution of the protracted problem;

(b) if so, the details of discussion held and outcome thereof;

(c) whether to strengthen relation with China any discussion was held; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The twelfth round of Special Representatives Talks on the India-China boundary question was held in Beijing from 18 to 19 September 2008. The Special Representatives of the two countries, Mr. M K Narayanan, National Security Adviser and Mr. Dai Bingguo, State Councillor held useful and positive discussions on the framework for the settlement of the India-China boundary question on the basis of the Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question signed on April 11, 2005. The two Special Representatives reaffirmed the consensus to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question through consultations on an equal footing, proceeding from the political perspective of overall bilateral relations. The two sides agreed that the next round of talks would be held in Delhi. The specific dates would be decided through diplomatic channels.

Suicide attack on Indian Embassy

682. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of people including Indian diplomat were killed when a suicide bomber rammed into the gates of the Indian Embassy in Kabul on 7 July, 2008;

(b) if so, the facts and details of casualties/loss of property, etc., held due to suicide bomb blast;

(c) whether Government had sent a high level team for Kabul to review the situation arising out of the suicide attack; and

(d) if so, the details of the report submitted by the team and steps taken by Government to provide adequate protection to Indian diplomats and their properties in foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) On 7th July 2008, at 0831 local time, a vehicle borne improvised explosive device was exploded by a suicide bomber near the entrance gate of the Indian Embassy in Kabul. The attack resulted in the tragic deaths of Shri V.V. Rao, Counsellor, Brig. R.D. Mehta, Defence Attache in the Embassy and their Afghan driver Mr. Neamatullah who were in an Embassy vehicle. Constable Ajay Singh Pathania (ITBP), Constable Roop Singh (ITBP) and 55 Afghan nationals (including 11 security personnel and

17 schoolchildren) were also killed. More than 150 persons received injuries. A large number of vehicles, both inside and outside the Chancery premises, were badly damaged. The Chancery building was also badly damaged. The attack on our Embassy was a dastardly terrorist attack perpetrated by the enemies of peace in Afghanistan and our region.

(c) and (d) Yes. A high-level team led by Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs visited Kabul from 7-10 July 2008. Foreign Secretary thereafter visited Kabul on 13-14 July 2008 along with other senior officers to review the situation arising out of the suicide attack. The security of the Embassy and its personnel has been augmented after the attack. The Afghan Government has been fully sensitised on providing adequate protection to Indian project workers and personnel in different parts of Afghanistan.

Agreement with Pakistan

683. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the specific issues discussed with Government of Pakistan during his recent visit to Pakistan;

(b) whether any agreement were signed between the two Governments as a result of the discussions held; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The External Affairs Minister visited Pakistan on 20-21 May 2008. He reviewed the Composite Dialogue encompassing (i) Peace and Security, including CBMs; (ii) Jammu and Kashmir; (iii) Siachen; (iv) Sir Creek; (v) Wullar Barrage/Tulbul Navigation Project; (vi) Terrorism and Drug Trafficking; (vii) Economic and Commercial Cooperation; and (viii) Promotion of Friendly Exchanges in Various Fields, with his counter-part the Foreign Minister of Pakistan. It was agreed to continue with the implementation of Cross-LoC CBMs with a view to enhancing interaction and cooperation across the LoC. The importance of ceasefire in place since November 2003 was reaffirmed and the commitment to fight terrorism reiterated. During his visit he also called on the then President of Pakistan General (Retd) Pervez Musharraf, the Prime Minister Mr. Yousuf Raza Gilani, and other leaders. An Agreement on Consular Access was signed during the visit.

Nyaya Panchayat Bill

684. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalized the text of the Nyaya Panchayat Bill;

(b) if so, the essential features of the Bill; and

(c) by when the Bill is proposed to be introduced in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No, Sir. The Draft Bill, prepared by the Drafting Committee on the Nyaya Panchayats Bill was forwarded to the State Governments / UTs and the Central Ministries concerned for their comments. Based on the